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NOV

DIGITAL
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image® **COMICS PRESENTS:**

"SABOTAGE"



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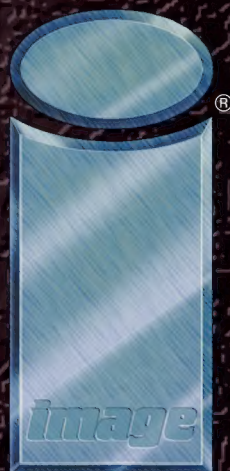
Dedicated to:
Steve Oliff

Spawn #54 Summary:

To confirm his dreams of Al, Terry searches the alleys for his dead friend. When Cog intercepts and questions Terry about his motives, he ends up mediating their encounter and saving Terry from Al's jealous rage. After Terry shows Al proof of the case he's been building against Jason Wynn, he accepts Terry's proposal to help him on a dangerous mission. Meanwhile, Sam and Twitch wait at the waterfront for an informant who supposedly has inside information about the Chief Banks-Senator Jennings conspiracy.

FOR IMAGE COMICS
LARRY MARDER - Executive Director

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SURREAL.

IT'S THE ONLY
WORD TERRY CAN THINK
OF TO DESCRIBE THIS
MOMENT...

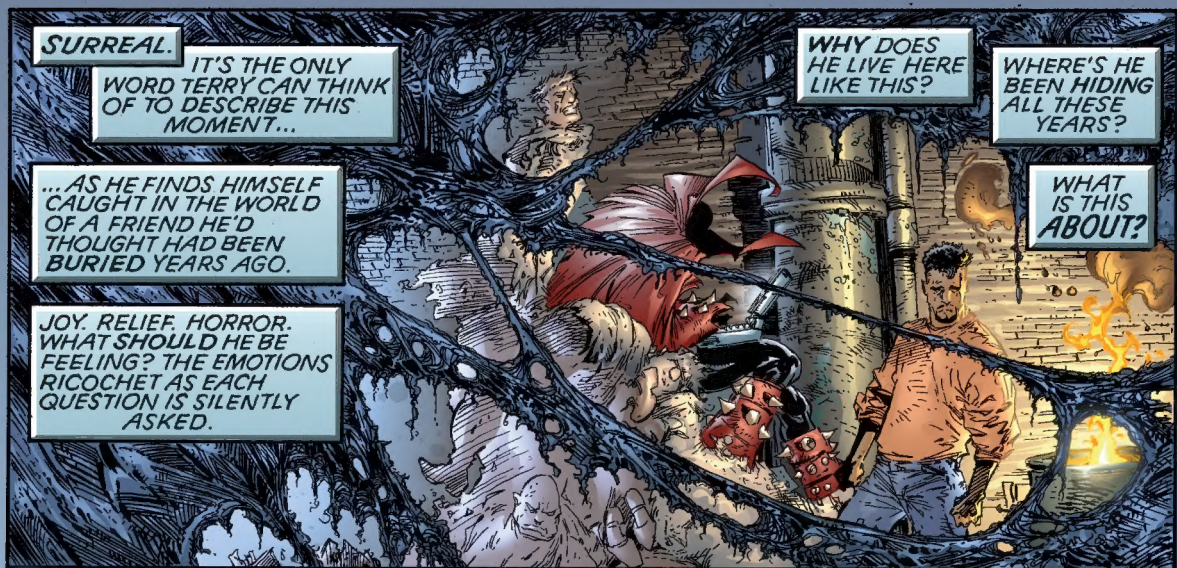
... AS HE FINDS HIMSELF
CAUGHT IN THE WORLD
OF A FRIEND HE'D
THOUGHT HAD BEEN
BURIED YEARS AGO.

JOY. RELIEF. HORROR.
WHAT SHOULD HE BE
FEELING? THE EMOTIONS
RICOCHET AS EACH
QUESTION IS SILENTLY
ASKED.

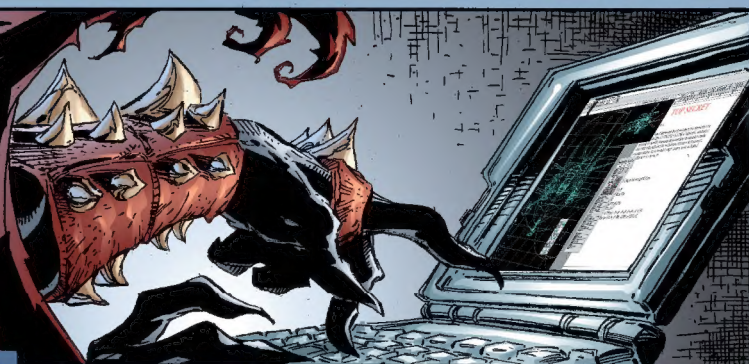
WHY DOES
HE LIVE HERE
LIKE THIS?

WHERE'S HE
BEEN HIDING
ALL THESE
YEARS?

WHAT
IS THIS
ABOUT?



ACCORDING
TO THIS DATA,
WYNN'S TAKEN THE
PROFITS FROM SALES
OF THE ARMAMENT
SHIPMENTS HE'S
DIVERTED AND USED
THE MONEY TO
BUY POLITICAL
FAVORS.



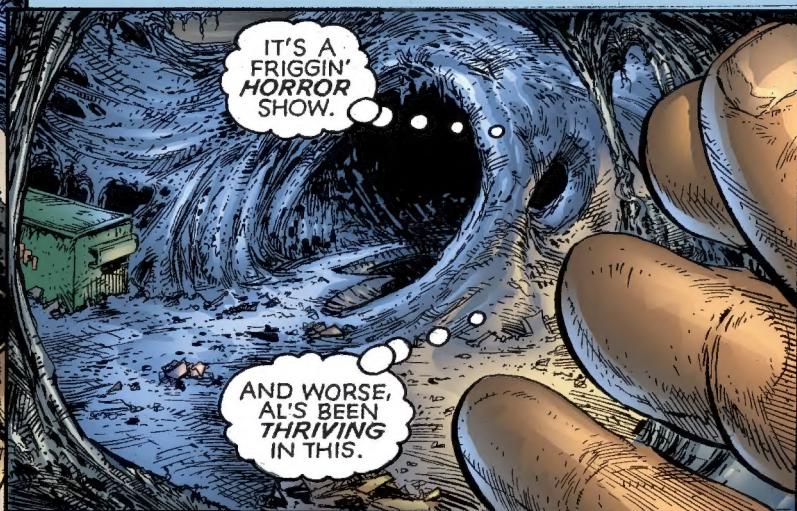
NOW THAT HIS FRIEND
IS BACK IN HIS LIFE,
HOW DOES TERRY CONVINCE
HIMSELF THAT ALL THIS
UGLINESS IS ACCEPTABLE?

LOOK
AT THIS
PLACE!

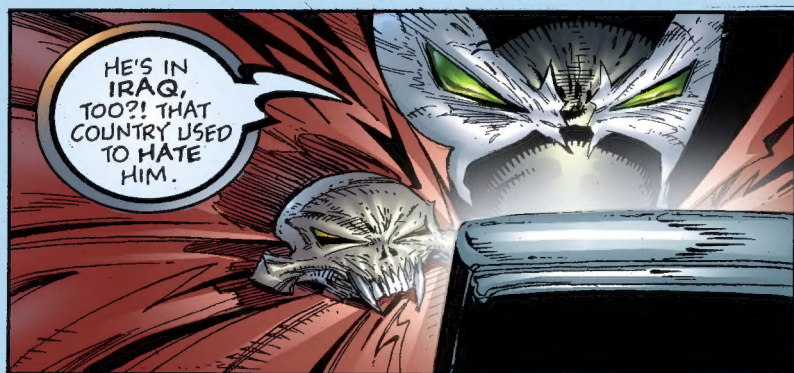


IT'S A
FRIGGIN'
HORROR
SHOW.

AND WORSE,
AL'S BEEN
THRIVING
IN THIS.



HE'S IN
IRAQ,
TOO?! THAT
COUNTRY USED
TO HATE
HIM.





HE'S CHANGED. AND UNTIL I FIGURE OUT HOW MUCH, THERE'S NO WAY I CAN LET WANDA KNOW ABOUT ANY OF THIS.

IT'D DESTROY HER.



TEK
TEK
TEK



THE LAST TIME THEY MET, SHE BECAME CONVINCED HE'S SOME PSYCHOTIC NUT TRYING TO MOCK AL'S MEMORY. *

*ISSUE 36 -- TOM--



SPAWN CONTINUES SCANNING THE LAPTOP'S SCREEN, SEARCHING FOR A WEAK LINK IN HIS FORMER BOSS'S OVERSEAS DEALINGS.

TEK
TEK



TERRY, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS BEEN SO ENGROSSSED WITH THE MACABRE SETTING THAT HE HASN'T WATCHED WHERE HE'S STEPPING.

A SQUISHY OOZE CHANGES THAT.



WHAT THE--?!

WORMS. MOVING
WITH A PURPOSE AND
SWIFTNESS THAT
REMINDS TERRY OF
HOW ANTS BEHAVE.

ONE LEG
IS HALF
COVERED BEFORE
HE KNOWS IT.

THEY'RE
BRUSHED OFF.
FRANTICALLY.

WHAT'S
IN THIS
GARBAGE
THEY'RE SO
EAGER
FOR?

GOD.

THERE'S
THOUSANDS.

**DROP
THEM!**

**DON'T YOU
EVER TOUCH
THOSE AGAIN!
UNDERSTAND?**

**DO YOU
UNDER-
STAND?!**

C'MON,
TAKE IT
EASY,
AL.



LIKE THE WORMS: THE CHANNELERS OF EVIL. THEIR LIVES IN THE SOIL, UNTOUCHED BY GOD'S LIGHT, CREATE IN THEM AN ETHEREAL GAP EAGERLY FILLED BY THE POWERS OF DARKNESS. THEIR **BLACK AURA** HELPS NURTURE AND STRENGTHEN SPAWN'S UNIFORM.

AND THOUGH HE TRIES NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT, HE KNOWS THEY'VE BECOME A PART OF HIS NEW EXISTENCE.





I
AGREE.

BUT I'M STILL
TRYING TO GET A
HANDLE ON ALL THIS.
LIKE THAT OLD MAN-- I
THINK YOU CALLED HIM
'COG'. SOMEHOW HE
KNEW ABOUT MY *LIFE*,
MY *MOTIVATIONS*.
HOW?

ONLY
SOMEONE FROM
MY OFFICE COULD
KNOW WHAT HE
KNOWS. AND DON'T
TELL ME HE'S SOME
UNDERCOVER
GUY.

*LAST ISSUE -- Tom.



I DON'T KNOW
WHAT HE IS. BUT HE'S GOT
SOME KIND OF POWER THAT
GIVES HIM INSIGHT INTO OTHERS.
UNFORTUNATELY, HE'S NEVER
BOTHERED TO TELL ME
HOW IT WORKS.

IT
JUST
DOES.



IN THE
MEANTIME,
YOU WANT TO
BE USEFUL?
HELP ME FIND MY
GUNS. I BURIED
THEM *SOMEWHERE*
AROUND HERE.

YEAH,
OKAY.



YOU DON'T
WANT TO TALK
ABOUT THIS, FINE. IT'S
JUST HARD FOR ME TO
UNDERSTAND WHAT'S
HAPPENED TO YOU.
YOU'RE BIGGER.
TALLER THAN
BEFORE.

WITH *POWER*
FROM *WHO* KNOWS
WHERE. AND AFTER
FIVE YEARS YOU JUST
DECIDED TO POP *BACK*
INTO EVERYONE'S
LIVES.

WHY?

WAS
DISAPPEAR-
ANCE YOUR
ONLY OPTION?
FAKING YOUR
OWN DEATH...
MAKING WANDA
SUFFER...



I'M DEAD!

OR, AT LEAST,
I WAS. THE FASTER
YOU ACCEPT THAT THE
SOONER SOME OF
THIS WILL BEGIN
TO MAKE SENSE.

HELL'S
NOT PLAYING
A GAME, TERRY.
THEY KNEW
WHAT THEY
WERE DOING
TO ME.

MY TRUE
BODY IS STILL
LYING IN A
COFFIN. ROTTING
AWAY. THIS
IS WHAT I'VE
BECOME
SINCE:

A
WALKING
GRIM
REAPER!

SO DON'T
TELL ME HOW
WANDA HAS
SUFFERED. I KNOW
THAT. BELIEVE ME,
THAT THOUGHT
TORTURES ME EVERY
MINUTE.



IF YOU
THINK YOU'RE
CONFUSED,
WELL, JOIN
THE CLUB.

SENSING THAT
THEIR NEW-
FOUND
RELATIONSHIP
HAS POINTS YET
TO RESOLVE,
THEY AGREE TO
RECONVENE
ANOTHER NIGHT.

AS TERRY
AMBLES
FORWARD,
HE KNOWS
HE'S MADE
A MISTAKE.
PRESSURING
AL THIS SOON
ISN'T FAIR.
HE'LL TALK
WHEN HE'S
READY.



THE FOCUS
SHOULD BE
ON JASON
WYNN. ALL
THE REST
WILL TAKE
CARE OF
ITSELF.

LIKE THE
MATTER OF
TERRY'S
SAFETY,
IN OR OUT
OF THE
BOWERY.



... THEIR
IGNORANCE
CAUSING
SOME FRICTION
IN THE RANKS.



THEY ARE DEALT
WITH, THOUGH,
BY THOSE WHO
KNOW BETTER:

THAT THIS MAN IS NOW
TO BE GIVEN ALL RIGHTS
ACCORDED ONE KNOWN
AS A 'FRIEND OF SPAWN'.

SO TERRY LEAVES.
UNTOUCHED.
AND COMPLETELY
UNAWARE.

THAT'S BEEN
TENDED TO.
THE WORD HAS
BEEN SPREAD.
"THIS CIVILIAN
GOES UN-
TOUCHED." OF
COURSE, THERE
ARE NEW
ARRIVALS
DAILY...



KNOWN FOR ITS ELITE CLIENTELE, THE CHATEAU LAURIER CATERERS TO THOSE PROFESSIONALS SEEKING FINE FRENCH CUISINE AND A STAFF DISCREET ENOUGH TO IGNORE EVERY CONVERSATION.

... LEAVING MY DEAR RIVALS TO THE NORTH PONDERING THEIR NEXT MOVE.

I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO BE OF SOME ASSISTANCE.

Oh Mr. WYNN, YOU ARE FAR TOO MODEST. YOUR SKILL AT ACQUIRING THE APPROPRIATE HARDWARE FOR THOSE OF US IN NEED HAS EARNED YOU MY UNDYING GRATITUDE.

STILL, ONE CANNOT HAVE TOO MANY FRIENDS.

WHICH IS WHY I'VE ASKED Mr. IJANNA HERE TO JOIN US THIS EVENING.

HIS ARMIES ARE STRATEGICALLY PLACED THROUGHOUT THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND ALONG THE TURKISH BORDER. THOUGH SMALL IN SIZE, THEY'VE--

I'M WELL AWARE OF Mr. IJANNA'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN GUERRILLA WARFARE -- OF HOW HE'S ABLE TO DO SO MUCH WITH SO LITTLE.

MY SOURCES ALSO INFORM ME THAT YOU GENTLEMEN HAVE NOW DISCOVERED A COMMON ENEMY-- ONE WHO CURRENTLY HOLDS A VITAL POLITICAL STRONGHOLD NEAR MUCH-NEEDED OIL FIELDS.




AGAIN YOU IMPRESS ME, MR. WYNN.

WE ARE PREPARED TO PAY HAND-SOMELY FOR ASSURANCES THAT OUR CAUSE WILL BE FORTIFIED WITH THE PROPER 'TOOLS'.


I WILL CONSIDER THIS TO BE A PERSONAL FAVOR, SIR. AS PER YOUR REQUEST, ALL FUNDS WILL BE CAREFULLY ROUTED TO A NUMBERED ACCOUNT IN SWITZERLAND.

TO FURTHER SHOW MY GRATITUDE, MAY I MENTION THAT I HAVE FRIENDS IN THE IRISH GOVERNMENT WHO CAN HELP WITH YOUR LITTLE PROBLEMS THERE.



FORTY MINUTES LATER, THE DEAL IS CLOSED.

THOUGH ALL ARE DISTRUSTFUL OF EACH OTHER, THIS MAKES FOR GOOD BUSINESS. ESPECIALLY FOR JASON WYNN, THE PROFITS FROM THIS TRANSACTION WILL HELP HIM BUY FAVORS IN JAPAN TOMORROW.




A LITTLE BUBBLY FOR SUCH A SPECIAL OCCASION?

SURPRISE!

I'LL TELL YOU, THAT WAS SWEET. YOU CONTROL THEM. THEY CONTROL YOU. EVERYONE'S ALL KISSY-KISSY. AND I THOUGHT WE DEMONS WERE MANIPULATIVE.

YOU'RE STILL ON TRACK WITH OUR DEAL, hmm?

EXCUSE ME?!



SPAWN WILL BE DEALT WITH SOON ENOUGH.

SOMEWHERE OVER
A MILITARY INSTAL-
LATION NEAR CAGAK,
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA...

THE FIRST TARGET HAS BEEN
IDENTIFIED. AFTER MUCH
DISCUSSION, AL AND TERRY
HAD CONCLUDED THAT
VISUAL CONFIRMATION WAS
A CRUCIAL STEP IN THE EXE-
CUTION OF THIS MISSION.



HIS RIDE HAS TAKEN
ALMOST EIGHTEEN
HOURS.

SITTING NEXT TO
LANDING GEAR AT
30,000 FEET FOR
OVER HALF A DAY
CAUSED SOME PAIN.

A SATELLITE
POSITIONING
LINK GIVES
HIM HIS
LOCATION.

AND THEN,
WHEN THE
PROPER TIME
COMES, A
SMALL PANEL
IS RIPPED
FROM THE
PLANE'S
GREAT BELLY.

BUT IN THE
PROCESS,
USE OF HIS
POWERS
WAS NOT
NECESSARY.

ANOTHER 10 HOUR
WALK BRINGS HIM
TO WHERE HE
WANTS TO BE.

POPPA
ONE, THIS IS
BIRTHDAY BOY.
I CAN SEE MY
PRESENT.



NEW YORK CITY.

COPY,
BIRTHDAY BOY.
IT'S TIME TO OPEN
YOUR PRESENT AND
TELL ME WHAT'S
INSIDE.

I'M ESPECIALLY
CURIOUS TO SEE
IF IT'S BEEN MADE
IN THE U.S., SINCE
IT'S NEARLY IMPOS-
SIBLE TO FIND
THOSE KINDS OF
TOYS IN OTHER
COUNTRIES.

I'LL SEND
A MESSAGE
AFTER EVERY-
THING'S BEEN
UNWRAPPED.

HOW
LONG
WILL THAT
BE?

TWENTY
MINUTES, TOPS.
I DON'T SEE THIS
PARTY LASTING
VERY LONG.

"BE
CAREFUL."

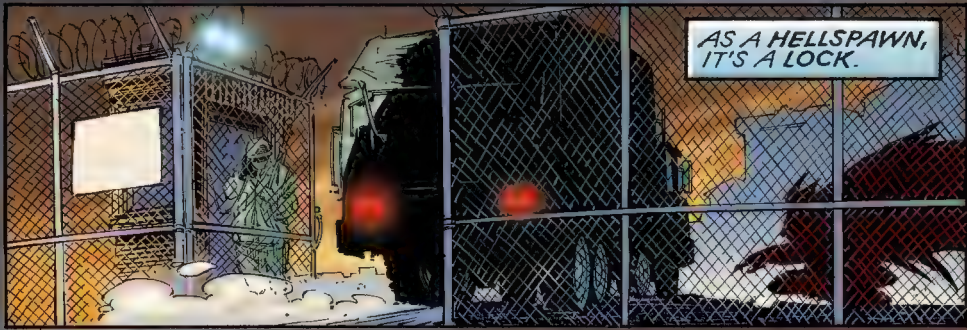
BENEATH HIS MASK,
SPAWN SMILES, THINKING
THAT TERRY ALWAYS WAS
SUCH A WORRY-WART.

BUT THIS IS
THE TYPE OF
MISSION HE
WAS TRAINED
FOR.

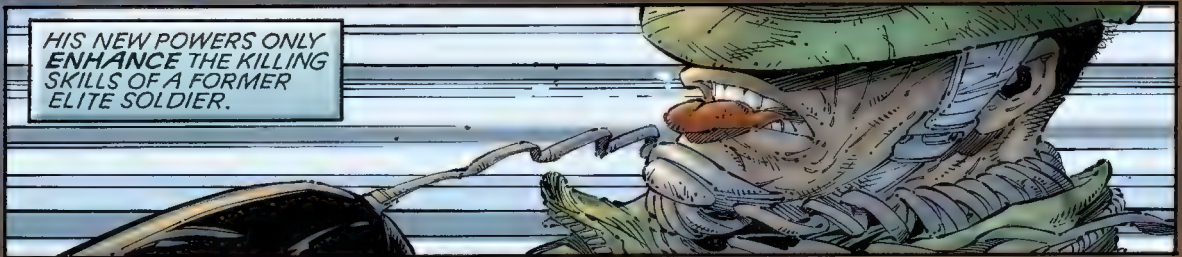
PERHAPS EVEN
BORN FOR.

WHY ELSE
WOULD HE
HAVE BEEN
SO EFFECTIVE
IN THEIR
EXECUTION.

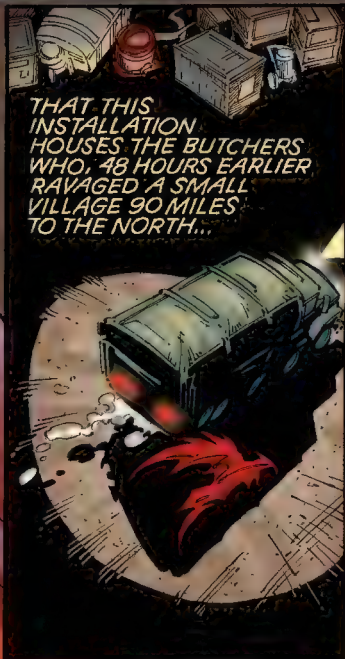
AS A MAN, THEN, HIS
SUCCESS IN THIS
MISSION WAS
HIGHLY
PROBABLE



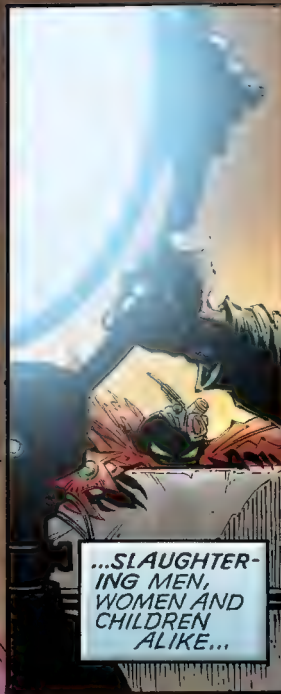
AS A HELLSPAWN,
IT'S A LOCK.



HIS NEW POWERS ONLY
ENHANCE THE KILLING
SKILLS OF A FORMER
ELITE SOLDIER.



THAT THIS
INSTALLATION
HOUSES THE BUTCHERS
WHO, 48 HOURS EARLIER
RAVAGED A SMALL
VILLAGE 90 MILES
TO THE NORTH...



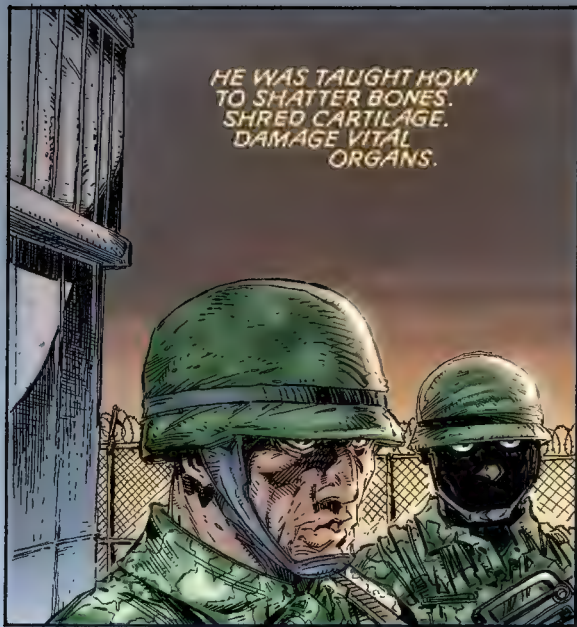
...SLAUGHTER-
ING MEN,
WOMEN AND
CHILDREN
ALIKE...



...ONLY
SERVES TO
MAKE OUR
CLOAKED
HERO MORE
DETERMINED



MORE
BRUTAL.



HE WAS TAUGHT HOW
TO SHATTER BONES.
SHRED CARTILAGE.
DAMAGE VITAL
ORGANS.



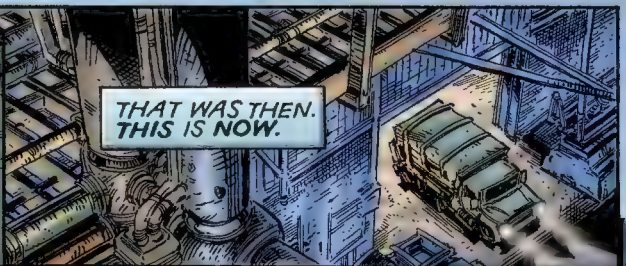
AND THE WAY
HE TOOK TO
WEAPONS--
ANY WEAPONS--
INCREASED HIS
VALUE TO HIS
SUPERIORS.



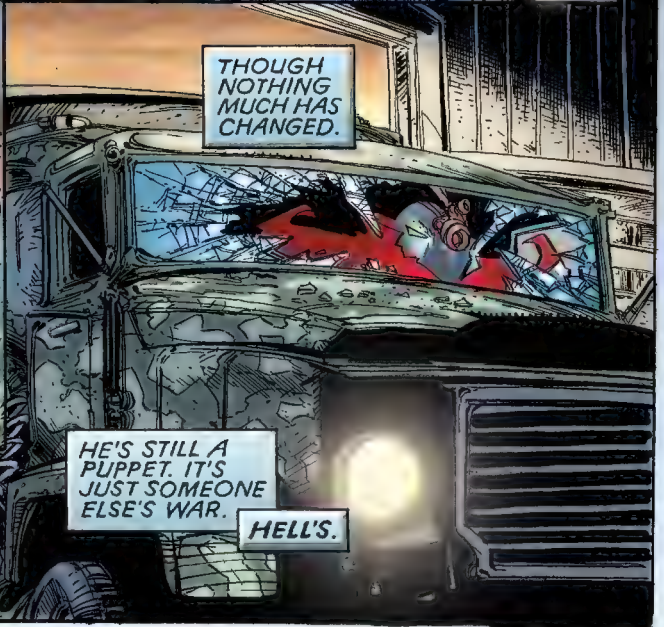
"KILL OR BE
KILLED." THAT
WAS WYNN'S
MOTTO.



LT. COLONEL AL
SIMMONS WAS
HIS PRIZE AGENT
FOR ENFORCING IT.



THAT WAS THEN.
THIS IS NOW.



THOUGH
NOTHING
MUCH HAS
CHANGED.

HE'S STILL A
PUPPET. IT'S
JUST SOMEONE
ELSE'S WAR.

HELL'S.

STILL, IN SOME WARPED
SENSE OF LOGIC, THIS IS
A CHANCE FOR SPAWN
TO FEEL HUMAN AGAIN.

DOING WHAT MADE
HIM SPECIAL.

AND, FOR MAY-
BE THE FIRST
TIME, FINDING
A PURPOSE
FOR HIS
TRANSFORMED,
ACCURSED
LIFE.



HE NEEDS TO
SAVOR THE
MOMENT.

BIRTHDAY
BOY, DO YOU
READ?

COPY,
POPPA ONE.
I'M STILL
HERE.

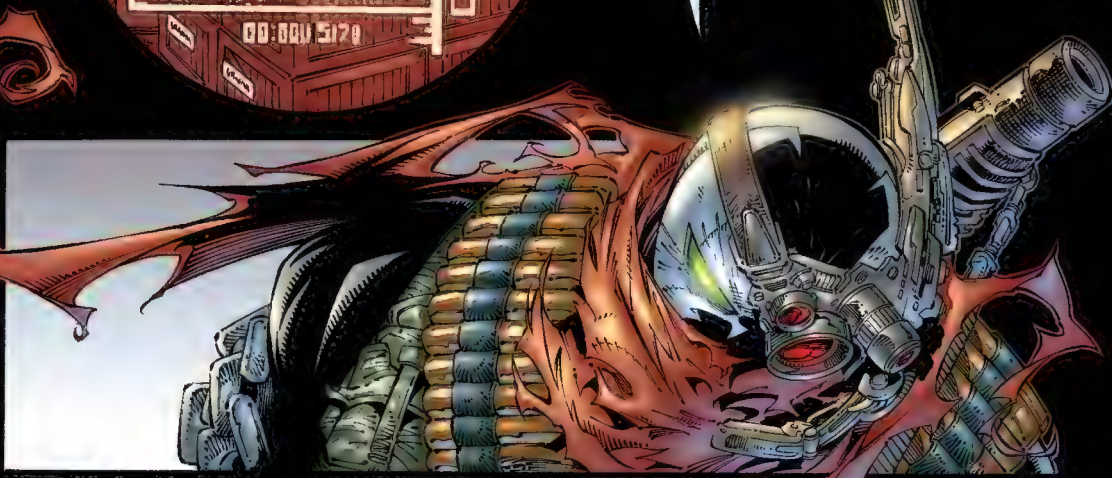
GOOD. I
NEED YOU TO
LOOK AROUND
FURTHER. SEE
IF YOU CAN FIND
THE SPECIAL
PRESENT.

NEGATIVE.
I'VE SEARCHED
THIS PLACE
TWICE ALREADY.
THE TAGS
ARE ALL
CORRECT.

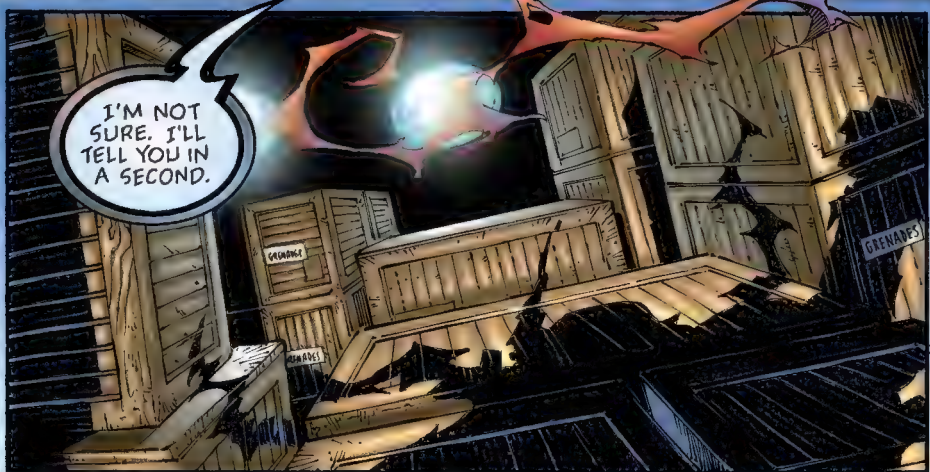
WHAT?

I'M TELLING
YOU WE'VE BEEN
SUCKERED. ALL
SHIPMENTS
APPEAR... WAIT
A MINUTE!

DO YOU
SEE
SOME-
THING?



I'M NOT
SURE. I'LL
TELL YOU IN
A SECOND.

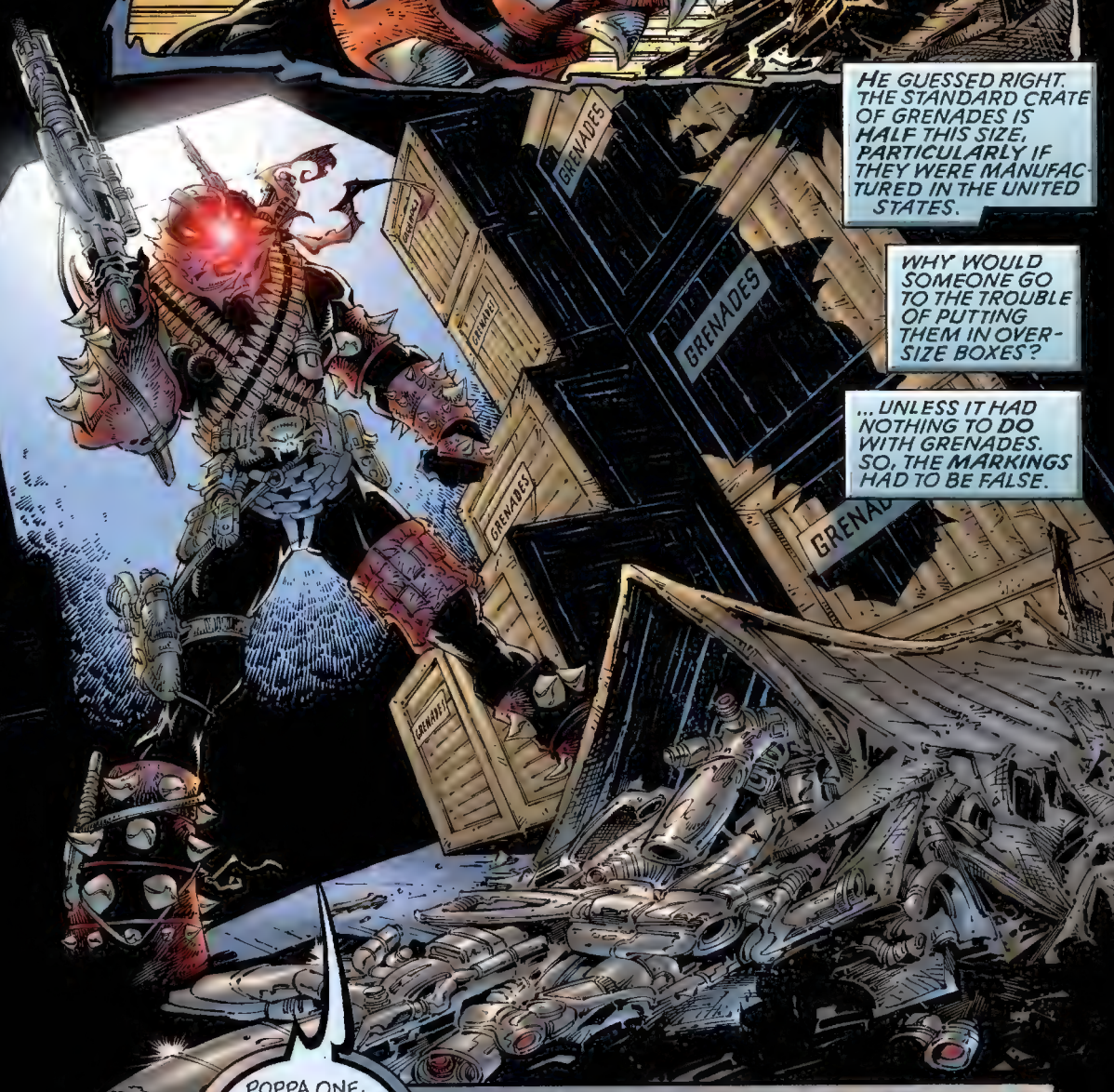




HE GUESSED RIGHT.
THE STANDARD CRATE
OF GRENADES IS
HALF THIS SIZE,
PARTICULARLY IF
THEY WERE MANUFAC-
TURED IN THE UNITED
STATES.

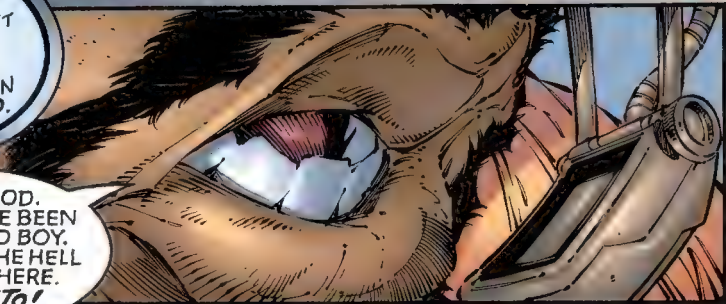
WHY WOULD
SOMEONE GO
TO THE TROUBLE
OF PUTTING
THEM IN OVER-
SIZE BOXES?

... UNLESS IT HAD
NOTHING TO DO
WITH GRENADES.
SO, THE MARKINGS
HAD TO BE FALSE.



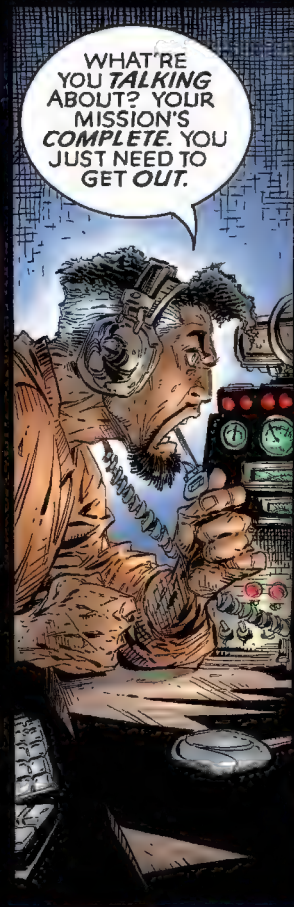
POPPA ONE,
WE'VE JUST HIT
PAY DIRT!
PHYSICAL
IDENTIFICATION
CONFIRMED.

THANK GOD.
OKAY, YOU'VE BEEN
A VERY GOOD BOY.
NOW GET THE HELL
OUT OF THERE.
PRONTO!

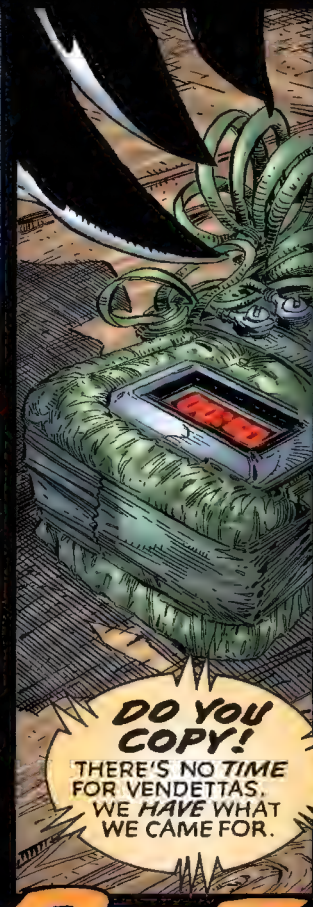




I WILL.
BUT NOT 'TIL
I LEAVE A LITTLE
GOING-AWAY
CARD.



WHAT'RE
YOU *TALKING*
ABOUT? YOUR
MISSION'S
COMPLETE. YOU
JUST NEED TO
GET OUT.

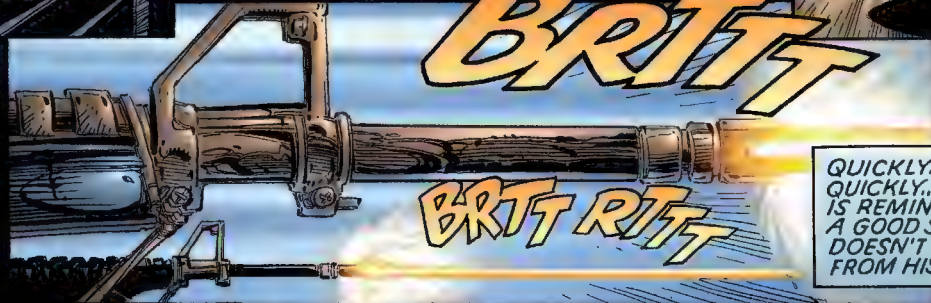


**DO YOU
COPY!**
THERE'S NO TIME
FOR VENDETTAS.
WE HAVE WHAT
WE CAME FOR.



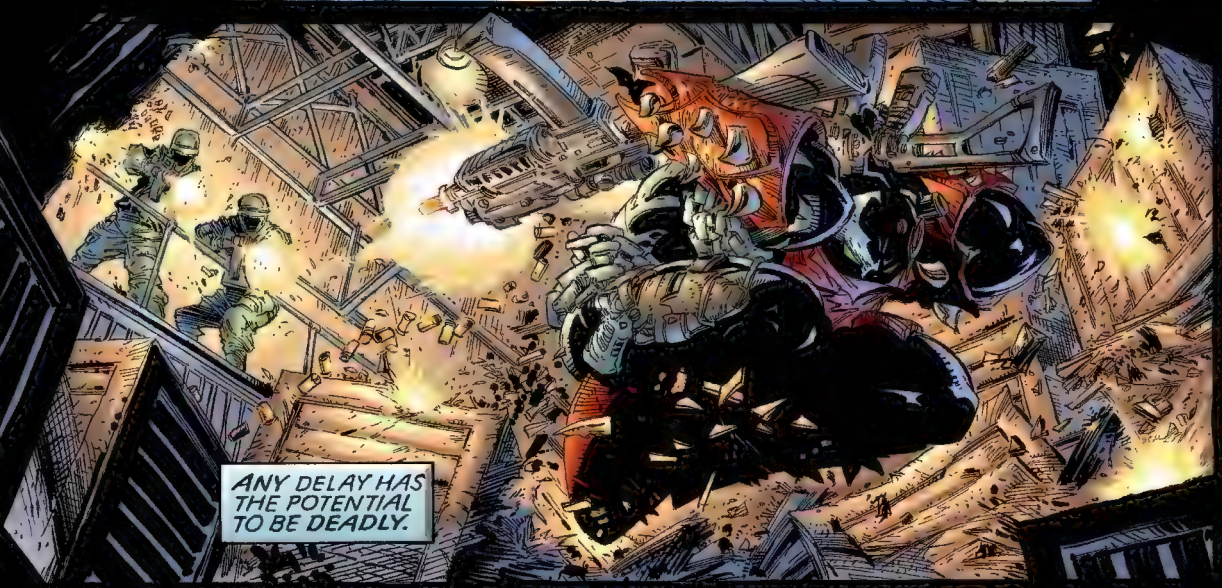
NO FURTHER
RESPONSE IS
FORTHCOMING.

I
GIVE
UP.



BRITTT
BRTT RTT


QUICKLY... VERY
QUICKLY... SPAWN
IS REMINDED THAT
A GOOD SOLDIER
DOESN'T VEER
FROM HIS ORDERS.



ANY DELAY HAS
THE POTENTIAL
TO BE DEADLY.



BUT HE
HAS TO
DO THIS.




IT'S NOT ABOUT
STRATEGY ANY-
MORE. THE GAME
IS QUITE SIMPLE
NOW:




REVENGE.



JASON WYNN IS
ABOUT TO RECEIVE A
VERY LOUD MESSAGE:



HELLSPAWN
DON'T LIKE
BEING PUSHED.



FOR NEARLY
THIRTY MILES,
THE FORCE OF
THE BLAST
WILL BE
VISIBLE.



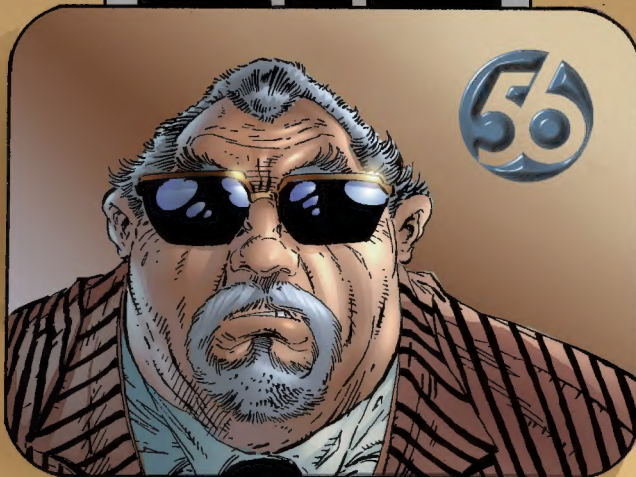
... SOURCES IN THE VICINITY OF THE EXPLOSION SAID THAT BECAUSE OF A SECOND TIER ENFORCEMENT RING AROUND THE INSTALLATION, FIREFIGHTERS WERE UNABLE TO MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE DISASTER SITE IN A TIMELY FASHION. WHEN RESCUE UNITS DID FINALLY ARRIVE, THE RAGING FIRES HAD DAMAGED THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE REBEL BASE.

ONE INSIDER PREDICTED THAT WITHOUT SUPPORT FROM ITS SOUTHERN FLANK, THE RENEGADE ARMIES RESPONSIBLE FOR MUCH OF NORTH KOREA'S TERRORIST ACTIVITY WOULD HAVE TO REALIGN ITS FORCE. THIS MIGHT GIVE GOVERNMENT PEACE NEGOTIATORS A CHANCE TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS TOWARD A CEASE-FIRE.



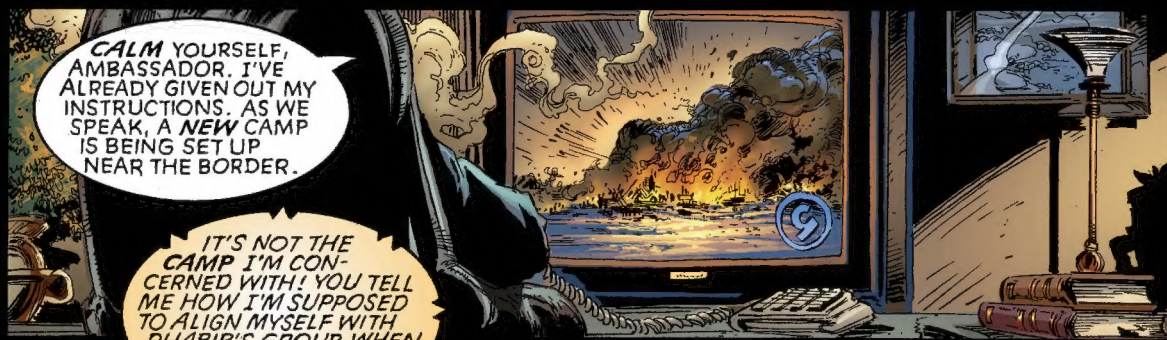
... THOUGH IT WAS ASSUMED THE LATEST EXPLOSION WOULD ESCALATE TENSIONS, THE HEADS OF BOTH PARTIES HAVE GONE INTO HIDING, PERHAPS TO FORMULATE PLANS FOR A **RESOLUTION** TO THIS LONG-STANDING FEUD. BOTH THE NORTH AND SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE INCREASED SECURITY IN RURAL BORDER AREAS ESPECIALLY. THEY HOPE TO THWART FURTHER MILITIA ACTIVITY IN THE EVENT NEITHER SIDE AGREES TO MUTUALLY-IMPLEMENTED SANCTIONS.

WE HAVE LEARNED THAT ONE REBEL COMMANDER IN THE NORTH HAS BEEN **EXECUTED** FOR ALLOWING SUCH A DEVASTATING INCIDENT TO OCCUR. THE BODY OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL SANHO KIM WAS REPORTEDLY HOIST UP A POLE AS A WARNING THAT FAILURE FROM WITHIN WOULD NO LONGER BE **TOLERATED**.



SO GET **THIS!**... AS A RESULT OF THIS LITTLE ASIAN **BONFIRE**, OUR PRESIDENT'S STAFF IS BEING LOBBIED FROM ALL SIDES BY OUR ALLIES. **THEY** WANT TO **TAKE ADVANTAGE** OF THE NORTH KOREANS' WEAKENED POSITION BY STEPPING UP **OUR** SIDE'S MILITARY PRESENCE. BUT US PEACE-LOVING AMERICANS ARE INSISTING ON STANDING IDLY **BY** AS NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA DUKE IT OUT.

SO OKAY, OUR FINE NATION IS BEING **HYPOCRITICAL** AGAIN, BUT THE RUMBLINGS FROM **OUR** LOCAL MILITIAS SUGGEST IT MAY JUST BE BUSINESS AS USUAL. I GUESS I WASN'T THE **ONLY** ONE WHO LOOKED CLOSE AT THE VIDEO FOOTAGE. THESE SO-CALLED **REBELS** WERE CARRYING OUR LATEST **ORDNANCE**, WEARING **OUR GEAR**. INDECISIVE PATTY-CAKE **POSTURING**, OR **ONE-STOP SHOPPING?** OR DID THE STUFF JUST **FALL OFF** THE BACK OF A **TRUCK?**



CALM YOURSELF, AMBASSADOR. I'VE ALREADY GIVEN OUT MY INSTRUCTIONS. AS WE SPEAK, A **NEW CAMP** IS BEING SET UP NEAR THE BORDER.

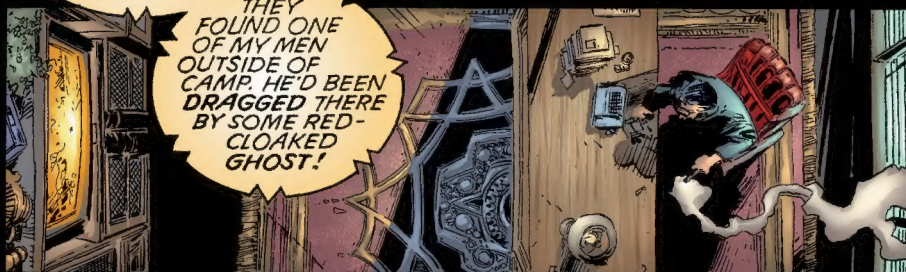
IT'S NOT THE **CAMP** I'M CONCERNED WITH! YOU TELL ME HOW I'M SUPPOSED TO ALIGN MYSELF WITH RHABIB'S GROUP WHEN I'VE NOW NOTHING TO GIVE HIM!

I'VE LOST A PARTNER WHO COULD GIVE ME PROTECTION. I'LL BE DEAD WITHIN 72 HOURS!

UNFORTUNATE. HOWEVER, I DID NOT CREATE YOUR ENEMIES.

NO, YOU DIDN'T, BUT YOU'VE CREATED A FEW OF YOUR OWN.

THEY FOUND ONE OF MY MEN OUTSIDE OF CAMP. HE'D BEEN DRAGGED THERE BY SOME RED-CLOAKED GHOST!



MY MAN SAID THE GHOST KEPT REPEATING THE SAME TWO WORDS:
"JASON WYNN.
JASON WYNN.
JASON WYNN."

"IT'S THE DEVIL HIMSELF," MY MAN SAID JUST BEFORE HE DIED.

WHATEVER IT IS, I DON'T LIKE BEING CAUGHT IN YOUR PERSONAL WARS. THE OTHERS WILL HEAR ABOUT THIS!





ELSEWHERE, THE COLD HISS OF STATIC IS SUDDENLY INTERRUPTED.

GOD DAMMIT!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?! I THOUGHT YOU WERE CAUGHT IN... NEVER MIND!

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'VE JUST STARTED?

YOU BLEW UP OUR EVIDENCE. WHAT WERE YOU THINKING--?!

A DOMINO EFFECT, HOPEFULLY. ONE LEADING RIGHT BACK TO ITS SOURCE.

DON'T WORRY. I KEPT A FEW SOUVENIRS.





Tyrant
Lizard
King

EMPIRE